(c) A Special Recruitment Drive has been undertaken to fill up the backlog of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on 31-3-91 in Ministries/Departments of the Central government.

Allocation of Financial Resources to Gram panchayats

1041. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to be state:

(a) whether the government propose to make statutory provisions for allocating financial resources to Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen the financial and executive powers of the Gram Panchayats?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The necessary provisions for Allocation of Financial Resources to Gram Panchayats and for strengthening the financial and executive powers of the Gram Penchants are included in the Constitution (Seventy-Second Amendment) Bill 1991 introduced in the Lok sabha.

Norms for Allocation of Funds Under J.R.Y. in Terms If Labour and material

1042. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms followed to allocate funds for projects under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in terms of labour and material;

(b) whether the Government are aware that due to high material cost in hilly and backward areas, projects under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana have become impractical; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for allocating funds for the projects as per the cost of material in a particular area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Funds under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are allocated to states/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country and not projectwise in terms of labour and material.

(b) and (c). As the primary objective of JRY is employment generation, it has been laid down in the guidelines that not less than 60% of the funds under the Yojana shall be spent on the wages of unskilled workers.

The secondary objective of the JRY is to strive for creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural economic infrastructure and also assets in favour of rural poor for their direct and continuing benefits. According to the guidelines, all rural works which result in creation of durably productive community assets can be taken up under the Yojana. Durable community assets which are productive, include works like social forestry soil and water conservation works, water harvesting structures, minor irrigation works, such as construction of community irrigation wells,. construction, improvement and deepening of intermediary and main drains and field channels, flood protection and drainage works construction/renovation of village tanks, land improvements,etc. These are highly labour-intensive activities. The percentage share of material component in such works, is much less than the permissible 40 per cent. If, however, the implementing authority decides to take up works having share of material component

more than 40 per cent, they can still implement such works provided the mix of works taken up results in the overall expenditure on wage-component being not less than 60 per cent. The material component can also be substantially brought down by use of local materials which the JRY guideline prescribe.

In addition, the guidelines also permit the use of funds from other Government and non-Government sources to meet the additional cost of material in case it becomes absolutely necessary to take up works in which the expenditure on material component is more than 40 per cent.

Mobile Vans for Public Distribution in Hilly and backward areas of Maharashtra

1043. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concept of mobile vans for Pubiic Distribution System in the Hilly and backward areas of Maharashtra has been implemented; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider allocating Mobile Vans to women/ backward community co-operative societies for establishing Mobile Fair Price Shops;

(c) whether all necessary items are proposed to be made available through these Fair Shops considering the high cost of the same in Hilly and backward areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRy OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Government of Maharashtra has availed of a total financial assistance of Rs. 30.00 lakhs, during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 for purchase of 12 mobile vans under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to be operated as mobile Fair Price Shops in hilly, rural and in-accessible areas. The assistance has been sanctioned on 75% loan and 25% subsidy basis.

(b) The organisation through which these vans are run/managed is decided by the State Government concerned.

(c) and (d): It is also for the State Government to decide whether any additional items apart from regular PDS items are to be distributed through the mobile fair price shops.

Taraget of Employment in Bihar under National Rural Employment Programme

1044. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER to be pleased to states:

(a) the targets fixed under National Rural Employment Programme for providing employment in Bihar during last three years; and

(b) the details of achievements made in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) which was being implemented in all the States including that of Bihar, has been merged into a new programme known as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) from the year 1989-90.

The employment generation target fixed and achieved in Bihar during the last 3 years under NREP/JRY is as under:-